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## Second Committee

**Summary record of the 1st meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 21 September 2015, at 3 p.m.

*Chair*: Mr. Logar ..... (Slovenia)

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*The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.*

**Election of the Rapporteur**

1. **The Chair** informed the Committee that the Group of African States had endorsed the candidacy of Ms. Uwezira (Rwanda) for the post of Rapporteur.

2. *Ms. Uwezira (Rwanda) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.*

**Organization of work**

3. **The Chair** said that the list of items allocated to the Committee would be issued shortly as document A/C.2/70/1. He drew attention to document A/C.2/70/L.1, on the organization of work, and to document A/C.2/70/L.1/Add.1, on the status of documentation, and reminded delegations of the guidelines adopted by the General Assembly in its decision 65/530. Almost all the facilitators of informal "informal" consultations had already been appointed, and he encouraged them to convene consultations as soon as possible.

4. Time had been set aside for six side events linked to the Committee's agenda. The Bureau had proposed four such events which would focus on formulating an economic and social policy agenda to achieve substantive equality for women and realize sustainable development; transitioning from the informal to the formal economy; crisis mitigation and resilience-building mechanisms for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States; and water scarcity and drought management in water-scarce countries. Two joint meetings of the Economic and Social Council and the Committee would also be held.

5. The target date for the conclusion of the Committee's work was 25 November, the latest date that would allow sufficient time for the Committee's reports to be processed and issued for consideration by the General Assembly before the December recess. The 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21), to be held from 30 November to 11 December, would also have an impact on the availability of Committee members and pose time constraints on the Committee's work.

6. **Mr. Shcherbakov** (Ecuador), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) said that the recent agreements reached concerning the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda should serve as a guide in the discussions on updating the Committee's working methods and revitalizing its work. Noting the importance of the principles of integrality and effectiveness, he said that CELAC would welcome a constructive and in-depth discussion on how the specific role of the Committee, as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, could be better utilized in bringing added value to the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, with a view to achieving the eradication of poverty. In the context of the time constraints associated with the current session, he drew attention to the need for delegations to participate in other processes, including the review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS + 10) and the Paris Climate Change Conference (COP 21).

7. CELAC was concerned about the proposed side events in view of the lack of attention given to the specific needs of the Latin American and Caribbean region, including the development of transparent measurements of progress on sustainable development that went beyond per capita income and recognized poverty in all its forms and dimensions, as well as the social, economic and environmental dimensions of domestic output and structural gaps at all levels. He hoped that the list of proposed events would be revised to reflect those needs.

8. **The Chair** said that the comments of the previous speaker regarding the proposed side events would be taken into account. He took it that the Committee wished to approve the organization of work contained in document A/C.2/70/L.1, on the understanding that further adjustments would be made if necessary.

9. *It was so decided.*

10. **The Chair** drew attention to document A/C.2/70/L.1/Add.1, which provided information on the status of documentation.

11. At the current session, he intended to accord priority to efforts to improve the Committee's working methods and rationalize its agenda in the context of measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. Review of the Committee's agenda would

contribute to the fulfilment of General Assembly mandates, particularly resolution 68/1, which sought to eliminate duplication and overlap between the work of the General Assembly and that of the Economic and Social Council and promote complementarity in the consideration of similar or related issues. Second, such action was in line with General Assembly resolution 69/321, adopted in response to the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly, requesting each Main Committee to discuss its working methods at the beginning of every session and inviting the outgoing Chairs to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group on best practices and lessons learned. Third, it was important to ensure that the focus of the Committee's work was in line with the requirements for the integrated follow-up and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and would adequately reflect and respond to the demands of sustainable development.

12. He would be convening a meeting immediately following the conclusion of the general debate to discuss the rationalization of the Committee's work and reorganization of the agenda in terms of both substance and procedure. Key issues to be considered would be how to make sustainable development an overarching framework for the Committee's agenda instead of just one cluster of the agenda; how to reorganize all the other clusters under that overarching framework; and what implications, if any, those changes would have for the outcome of the Committee's work.

*The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.*